

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2018

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

1-0-3-0

Hanover

HNS.249

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 947 Monponsett Street

Historic Name: Nahum and Elizabeth Hill
House

Uses: Present: Single-Family
Residential
Original: Single-Family Residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1850

Source: 1855 mortgage (PCRD 267/114-115);
Federal & state censuses of 1850,
1855, 1860

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Wood
sided shed in behind the house to the east and
small metal prefabricated storage building to
north of house

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Two-story
addition to east façade and projecting entrance on
its south facade

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .69 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main
thoroughfares in an area with a mix of smaller
single family homes built close to the street on
moderately sized lots with commercial and
business structures interspersed throughout.

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☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half-story Greek Revival cottage has an asphalt shingled gable-end roof over its original rectangular footprint. A tall, two-story addition extends across the east façade of the house, extending beyond the house by several feet to the north and only slightly beyond the main house to the south. The wide roof overhangs the gable facades to either side with wood trimmed eaves and soffits over wide cornice boards. This includes around the gable-end pediment, which has a projecting roof overhang with a wide band of wood molding at the eaves and a wide cornice board surrounding the outer edges of the pediment ending at the narrow returns which project from each corner above the corner boards. The ridge of the two-story, gable roofed addition stands several feet higher than the original house and has similarly wide, overhanging eaves and soffits. The gable-ends of the two-story addition have a similarly overhanging roof edge but is smaller than the gable-end on the main house with narrower trim and no cornice boards above its returns. The house is wood clapboard sided with wood trim and the original two-over-two double hung wood windows behind later storm windows. Two narrow, corbeled brick chimneys are located at the center of the building – one on the roof ridge of the original gable-end and one to the south at the center of the two-story addition's roof ridge.

The wide gable-end façade of the original house faces west towards the street. Two double hung windows are located at the center of the gable-end and to the left of the entrance on the first floor. The solid, vertical wood board door has a narrow projecting hood that extends out above a flat door frame with a narrow band of trim around its sides. A similar door is located on the west façade of the small projecting entrance on the south façade on the right. Here the same door is used in an even simpler frame with no additional trim or detailing.

On the north façade, a double hung window is located at either end of the gable-end structure below a wide, flat cornice board. Just before the intersection of the original house and two-story dormer is a shed-roofed wall dormer that extends the trim details up and round a double hung window. The cornice is lost as part of this project, but the trim surrounding the eaves is maintained. A single window is located below the wall dormer on the north façade of the original house. As the two-story addition extends past the north façade of the house, its west façade has just enough space for window on the second floor above a more traditional wood paneled door and metal storm door set below a projecting metal awning. The second story window is surrounded by shutters which are not otherwise found on the house. On the north façade of the two story gable-end, a single window is centered in the gable-end and located in each corner of the floors below.

A single double hung window is located at the center of the original gable-end's south façade. At the intersection of the original house and the two-story addition, a one-story, gable-end entrance porch extends south from the house. This gable-end also has wide wood molding around the eaves and fairly wide soffits with small returns at each corner. As noted above, a door is located in the narrow gable façade to the south, and a second door is located at the center of the much wider gable-end. This door may be original to the house and has a large rectangular window at the top over vertical panels below. An unpainted wood deck with wood board railings leads from this entrance to the yard. On the two-story addition to the right, the gable-end has one window

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centered on its facade over three windows on the second floor and a short double hung window at the center of the first floor.

The house sits slightly above the street behind a cement topped stone retaining wall that runs along the west property line. The wall begins at the south edge of the dirt and gravel driveway which widens into a parking area to the north of the house. The retaining wall continues south along the street to the southwest corner of the property, with a break just to the south of the house for a second driveway opening which now provides access to a large flat grass yard. Bushes and foundation plantings surround the north, west and south facades of the house. The property is ringed by tall, mature evergreen and pine trees. To the east of the house at the edge of these trees is a wood shingle sided shed with double hung windows on its west façade below a gable-end roof that faces south. The shed's south façade has a small hayloft door over a two part barn door style entrance below. To the west of the house next to the dirt parking area, is metal prefabricated shed with a low gable-end roof and two wide metal doors facing south towards the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

White's *History of Hanson* did not include this property but local historian Allan Clemons has dated it to around 1850. At that time, the property was part of the larger estate owned by Josephus White (1803-1883), who is listed as being of Halifax throughout his life. His parents, Sophia and Bethuel White, were from Halifax and he married Abigail Anne Wood of Norton, MA, in 1824. The 1830 Smith Plan shows a J. White as living in the area, but his home appears to have been located to the north of 947 Monponsett Street, near the current railroad tracks, both in 1830 and on later maps. Josephus is listed in both state and federal census records as a farmer, while his son, Josephus, worked as a shoemaker. The existing house may have been built by the Whites, perhaps for son Josephus' marriage to Angeline W. Bonney in 1845, but the first clear owners and residents of the building were Nahum S. and Elizabeth Hill. Nahum Stratton Hill (1828-1917) was born in Pembroke and married Elizabeth Thomas in Hanson in 1846.¹ Between 1846 and 1871 they had at least six children. Nahum Hill was a shoemaker and a N.S. Hill is shown as the owner on both the 1856 (town) and 1857 (county) maps. Based on the census records, Hill appears to have already been living on the property in 1850, suggesting that the house may predate 1850 and could have been constructed soon after Nahum and Elizabeth's marriage in 1846.

The 1856 Walling Map lists N.S. Hill as the owner of the property, but he had in fact sold the property in 1855 to John B. Chandler.² The 1855 deed refers to a mortgage that Hill had taken out with Chandler, providing further proof that the house was already in existence at that time. Along the right side of the mortgage is Chandler's 1860 note acknowledging that he has received "full satisfaction for the debt secured by this mortgage and do therefore hereby cancel & discharge the Same." Although Chandler may not have lived in Hanson, he did own property in South Hanson, described as abutting Hill's property in the 1855 mortgage and was known to be farmer from Pembroke, where he appears to have kept his primary residence throughout his ownership of 947 Monponsett.

The next owner and resident of the house was Daniel Vichery, who purchased the house from John Chandler in 1859 along with an adjacent lot of "improved land" from Josephus White.³ Daniel Vichery (1826-1893) was born in Plympton to Daniel Vichery and Asenath Cushman. He married his first wife, Mary Thomas, in Plympton in 1843 and the young family had moved to the Halifax by 1855 where Daniel was listed as a farmer in the state census. By 1860, the federal census lists Daniel as a shoemaker residing in Hanson, where he remained through the 1880s, working as both a peddler and shoemaker. The 1879 Walker Atlas shows "D.I. Vicary" as owning the

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/131143620>

² Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 267, Page 114

³ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 311, Page 151

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property. In 1889, Daniel married his second wife, Maria Dietmeier, in Halifax, where he died in 1893. Maria Dietmeier Vichery sold the family home in 1895 to Mary E. Pickett, a dressmaker from Cambridge.⁴

Mary Pickett's ownership of the property was brief and launched its use in the mid-twentieth century as a summer or short term home. In 1897, Mary sold the house to Elmer and Abbie Wood of Cambridge⁵, although in the 1900 U.S. Census, Mary is listed as the owner of the house with Elmer Wood living there as her boarder while working as a laborer. Interestingly, Elmer is also listed in Cambridge in the 1900 Census with his wife Abbie. Mary Pickett died in 1900. That same year, Wood transferred the property to his mother, Frances Wood, who then transferred it to Elmer's sister, Emma. The 1903 Richards Map, however, lists "E.B. Wood" as the owner and Elmer appears to have lived in the house and worked as a farmer there until his death from heart disease in 1905. The family sold the house the following year to William W. Copeland.⁶ Copeland sold it in 1907 to James W. Ryan who sold it in 1908 to Olivia S. Stocker.⁷ Stocker owned it until 1911, when she sold it to Lillian P. Adams.⁸ The property was then sold three more times in 1911 -to Fred W. Snow, Willard and Amy Morrison, and finally to Mary F. Carter.⁹ Mary and Albert Carter owned the house for the next ten years but there is no record of their living or working in Hanson, suggesting that it was used as a summer home throughout that time. In 1921, the Carters sold the house to Marion Raynes,¹⁰ whose husband, George H. Raynes, is listed as a traveling salesman for a candy company in the 1930 U.S. Census. The family lived in the house with their five children and Marion's mother, Mary A. Fowler until 1936, when they sold the house to the Home Owners Loan Corporation. The Corporation owned the house for nine years, perhaps as a rental unit, before selling it to Theodore C. and Margaret Harrington in 1945.¹¹ The Harringtons moved to Hanson from Marshfield, where Theodore worked for a medical supply company according to the 1940 U.S. Census and in the 1950s worked for the United Sales Company in Boston. The Harringtons remained in the house for the next thirty years. Margaret continued to live in the house after Theodore's death, eventually transferring the property to son John P. Harrington and his wife, Linda, in 1973. Current owners Diane Callahan and Paul Hillstrom purchased the property from the Harringtons in 1979.¹²

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⁴ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 699, Page 567

⁵ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 744, Page 596

⁶ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 952, Page 56;

⁷ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 974 Page 229; Book 992, Page 179

⁸ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 1074, Page 539

⁹ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 1090, Page 245

¹⁰ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 1389, Page 37

¹¹ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 1883, page 557

¹² Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 4646, Page 470

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by Lara Kritzer

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The ca. 1850 Greek Revival cottage is eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criteria A for its association with the settlement of Plymouth County and Massachusetts, and development of both Hanson and the village of Monponsett. The house is also eligible under Criteria C as it has survived in its original location with both its setting and original architectural character intact despite over two centuries of use and alteration. The house embodies the distinctive character of early nineteenth century architecture and illustrates the evolution of a house as it is adapted over time to meet the changing needs of its residents. Additional information on the building's interior will also be needed for the Massachusetts Historical Commission to substantiate its National Register eligibility.